

What is claimed is:

1. A system for facilities management, including:
  - a server;
  - a client in communication with the server;
  - 5 a database in communication with the server and with the client;
  - and
  - a personality module in communication with the server, with the client, and with a field device.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the client includes a user interface designed to receive customization information from a user that determines system operation.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the client includes a user interface, the  
15 user interface designed to receive customization information from a user, the customization information including portals and system configuration information.
4. The system of claim 1, furthering including:
  - 20 an enclosure;
  - wherein the personality module is housed in the enclosure.

5. The system of claim 1, further including:

an enclosure;

a plurality of personality modules;

wherein the plurality of personality modules are housed in the

5 enclosure.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the personality module is modular and is selected from a plurality of personality module types, each type having a distinct set of characteristics defining personality module functionality.

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7. The system of claim 6, wherein the plurality of personality module types includes a reader module and I/O module.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein upon installation the personality module

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9. The system of claim 1, wherein

the personality module includes an operating system.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein:

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the personality module includes a software application designed to communicate directly with a third-party system.

11. The system of claim 1, including:

a plurality of enclosures, wherein each enclosure is capable of housing a plurality of personality modules;

wherein personality modules can be dynamically removed from or added to an enclosure while the system is in operation;

wherein enclosures can be dynamically removed from or added to the system while the system is in operation.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the personality module operates autonomously from the server.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the personality module stores all information required to autonomously perform facilities management functions.

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14. The system of claim 1, further including:

an enclosure, wherein the personality module is housed in the enclosure; and

a display module is housed in the enclosure.

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15. The system of claim 14, wherein:

the display module includes an LCD touchscreen.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein:

the display module includes a user interface to be displayed on a display screen, the user interface designed to interact with the personality module.

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17. A system for facilities management, including:

a server;

a client in communication with the server;

a database in communication with the server and with the client;

10 and

an enclosure in communication with the server, with the client, and with a field device, wherein the enclosure is capable of housing at least one modular personality module selected from a plurality of personality module types, each type having a distinct set of characteristics defining personality module functionality.

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18. The system of claim 17, wherein the plurality of personality module types includes reader modules and I/O modules.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein upon installation the personality module automatically receives an IP address.

20. The system of claim 17, including:

a plurality of enclosures, wherein each enclosure is capable of housing a plurality of personality modules;

5 wherein personality modules can be dynamically removed from or added to an enclosure while the system is in operation;

wherein enclosures can be dynamically removed from or added to the system while the system is in operation.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein:

10 the personality module operates autonomously from the server.

22. The system of claim 17, further including:

15 a display module housed in the enclosure, the display module including a user interface to be displayed on a display screen, the user interface for interacting with the at least one personality module housed in the enclosure.

23. An apparatus for use in a facilities management system that includes a server, the apparatus comprising:

20 an enclosure;

a plurality of personality modules housed in the enclosure;

wherein the personality modules are modular; and

wherein each personality module is selected from a plurality of personality modules types, each type having a distinct set of characteristics defining personality module functionality; and

wherein each personality module is independently addressable.

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24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

each personality module is dynamically swappable with another type of personality module.

10 25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein:

the personality modules operate autonomously from a server.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the enclosure further houses a display module, wherein a user interface is to be displayed with the display

15 module, the user interface for interacting with the personality modules housed in the enclosure.